



CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC SAFETY

APPROVED

MEMBERS PUBLIC SAFETY

Robert J. Zygarowski, Chairman
Frank Laflamme, Vice Chairman
Jerry Roy
Gary Labrie
John Vieau

MINUTES June 10, 2015

The following are the minutes of a public hearing held Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

Members Present

Zygarowski, Laflamme, Roy (At-Large), Labrie, Vieau

Also Present

Dan Garvey (Associate City Solicitor), Councilor Moreau, Councilor Brooks (arrived 6:32), Krampits (arrived 6:31), Councilor Tillotson, Councilor Lamontagne

In compliance with the Open Meeting Law the Chairman asked if anyone in the audience was recording the meeting.

Cherise Leclerc, Western Mass News, stated that she is recording the meeting.

ITEM #1

ORDERED THAT the Fire Chief appear before the Public Safety Committee.

Deputy Dean Desmarais was present at the meeting.

Councilor Lamontagne stated that he filed this order to discuss the Grattan Street firehouse not being opened 24/7. He is concerned about response times to fires and he would like an update on plans for the station.

Deputy Desmarais stated that there are many factors that need to be considered when evaluating response time. The recent fire on Parenteau- the response time was four minutes. Currently there are 142 members. With that number there is insufficient staff to man Grattan Street 24/7. In order to staff Grattan Street 24/7 the Fire Department will need to increase 22-23 members at a cost of \$1.2 million. Deputy Desmarais stated that the station has personnel at the Grattan Street station because the second ambulance operates out of this station. However, if the ambulance is out on a call then the station is empty. Deputy Desmarais stated that there are times that both ambulances are out on medical calls and fire apparatus has to go out on medical calls.

Councilor Roy asked how short is the fire staff. Deputy Desmarais stated it is 12 members short.

Motion made by Councilor Laflamme and second by Councilor Roy to place on file.

Committee vote 5 – 0 favorable.

ITEM #2

ORDERED THAT the Emergency Management Director and Consultant appear before the Public Safety Committee.

Motion made by Councilor Laflamme to postpone. Motion passed.

ITEM #3

ORDERED THAT the Health Department appear before the Public Safety Committee for an update on proposed vaping and e-cigarette regulations for all public places.

Lisa Sanders (Health Director), Theresa Picard (Health Commissioner), Janet Ely (Health Commissioner) were present.

PUBLIC INPUT

Christopher Prost, 182 Chicopee Street, owner of Hunter's Pub, stated that he sells e-cigarettes at his establishment. He further stated that there is no health claims for second hand smoke. He also stated that people need to be educated.

Debbie Guardino, 220 Wildermere Street, stated that it's because of e-cigarettes that she quit smoking. Why would the city now force her to go outside and stand with those who are smoking cigarettes.

W. Kaween Fernando, 123 State Street, a biochemical engineer, stated that his company supplies the liquid for the e-cigarettes and he has sent e-mails to the Council offering his expertise on this matter. He would like to know if the Council will learn about what they are regulating or just regulate blindly.

Councilor Brooks stated that he would like to know about the potential harmful effects that e-cigarettes have. He would like to know how the general public is affected. His concern is the potential to load e-cigarettes with nicotine and kids being able to use this product. There are studies that show that second hand vapor inhalation can be harmful to kids and second hand vapor inhalers. He stated that there is still a potential for harm with e-cigarettes to bystanders. He would like the Health Department to look into how the general public is exposed. He does not believe that the City is regulating blindly. He would like to protect the general public. What's the potential harm from someone loading the e-cigarettes with nicotine.

Councilor Tillotson stated that it took 30 years to discover that cigarettes cause cancer. Do we want to wait 30 years to discover something about e-cigarettes? He further stated that Springfield regulations prohibit anyone less than 18 years of age to purchase e-cigarettes.

Councilor Moreau stated that he is concerned for the youth who may be purchasing these products. He is also concerned about the chemicals in these products.

Lisa Sanders stated that the Board of Health Commission has established regulations for restricting the sale of tobacco products and nicotine delivery products. This regulation would prohibit selling these products to minors less than 18 years of age. This regulation will be implemented July 1, 2015.

Theresa Picard (Health Commissioner) stated that the commission has spent three meetings discussing this matter at length including hearing from experts from the state on this matter. They are very close to a final draft for regulation prohibiting smoking in workplaces and public places.

Motion made by Councilor Vieau and second by Councilor Zygarowski to place on file.

Committee vote 5- 0 favorable.

Motion made by Councilor Laflamme to go back to Item #2

Glenn Joslyn (Emergency Management Director) and Jeff Trask (Consultant) were present at the meeting.

Councilor Lamontagne stated that he filed the order to inquire about the work schedule for the department and to obtain information about the department.

Glenn Joslyn stated that he works 12 hours per week (Thursday and Friday) and Jeff Trask works 8 hours per week. He further stated that Jeff is very good at grant writing which he does for the city. They currently have a 22 member Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) certified and the department has worked on revising a comprehensive emergency plan for the city.

Jeff Trask stated that he is a vendor for the city and not a city employee.

Councilor Moreau questioned whether the department has been in contact with the Church of the New Covenant on Chicopee Street. Glenn stated that he has and is working with the church to set up for shelter purposes for small incidents.

Councilor Laflamme stated that he has attended some meetings of the CERT and he sees that it is growing. He also questioned the inventory of the department.

Glenn stated that he is picking up the seals for equipment on Friday.

Councilor Vieau stated that he has seen that the department has accomplished a lot in a short time frame. He stated that that they are pro-active and not re-active.

Councilor Lamontagne asked what the role of the CERT is. It was explained that it is volunteers from the community that assist the Emergency Management Director and first responders in time of disaster. They help out with opening shelters as well as helping out at civic events such as the July 4th fireworks.

Motion made by Councilor Laflamme and second by Councilor Zygarowski to place on file.

Committee vote 5 – 0 favorable.

ITEM #4

Minutes – June 2, 2014. Motion made to approve. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.